

Governor's Commission on Community and Volunteer Service

Full Commission Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2019

Smyrna Rest Area and Information Center
5500 Dupont Parkway. Smyrna, DE 19977

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Commissioners Present: Hilda Adams, Paul Calistro, Lossie Freeman, Catherine Lindroth, J. Robert Parsons, Molly Williams, Enid Wallace-Simms, Susan Haberstroh, Jeffrey Lank.

Commissioners Absent: Mary Kate Benson, Sharon Morgan, Gary Pippin, Margi Prueitt.

Attending via phone: Margarita Rodrigues-Duffy, Deborah Tokarski.

SOV Staff Present: Cynthia Manlove, Kanani Munford, Charles Harris, Tara Wiggins, April Willey, Patty Courtney.

Guests: Whitney Wideman

NOTE TAKER

Patty Courtney

BUSINESS MEETING – CALL TO ORDER

Paul Calistro, Chair of the Commission, called the business meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

ROLL CALL – DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Ten voting Commissioners were in attendance, there was a quorum.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

MINUTES

Motion #1 Commissioner Tim Sheldon moved to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2019 meeting. Commissioner Hilda Adams seconded the motion. All were in favor.

CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Paul Calistro, Chair of the Commission, had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC on February 12, along with Executive Director Kanani Munford and AmeriCorps Program Manager Charles Harris, to participate in a discussion on the future of national service with Senator Chris Coons of Delaware and Senator Bill Cassidy of Louisiana. Also present at the discussion were Barbara Stewart, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Ann Maura Connolly, President of Voices for National Service, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown, and others.

They later attended a Friends of National Service Awards dinner where Senator Coons received the Edward M. Kennedy National Service Lifetime Leadership Award that evening.

Commission Chair Calistro attended the Commission Board Chair Leadership Development Training on February 13.

The following week, he met with Barbara Stewart, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service, at Great Oaks Charter School in Wilmington. Great Oaks supports TutorCorps volunteers, who focus one on one with students to help them become competitive and achieve their potential.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Kanani Munford reported on the Joint Finance Committee Meeting. She thanked Commissioners for taking time to advocate for the State Office of Volunteerism. She said it was important to realize that the Joint Finance Committee does not know what we do, which is why it is so important to attend when they have a hearing.

Commission Chair Calistro was able to present a giant check for 15.4 million dollars, representing the value of volunteerism in our state, to the Joint Finance Committee.

Commissioner Hilda Adams told us that while she was at the hearing, she heard a Senator mention that he appreciated knowing the value of volunteering.

Executive Director Munford also reported that she attended Career Day at Great Oaks Charter School on Friday March 15. She spoke with five classes of students and answered their questions about her career as well as national service.

FINANCE REPORT

Executive Director Munford delivered the financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Delaware Volunteerism:

Commissioner Rodriguez-Duffy reported on the work that she has been doing with Commissioner Lossie Freeman and Volunteer Delaware Program Manager April Willey. Together they have been making changes on the Volunteer Delaware website. She said she has reached out to local companies for help with the creative aspects and to possibly form a committee to help support April Willey's work.

Volunteer Delaware Program Manager April Willey thanked Commissioner Rodriguez-Duffy for volunteering to judge Youth Award nominations. She stressed that she needed two more Commissioners to act as judges. Commissioner Molly Williams volunteered to be a judge as well.

National Service:

AmeriCorps Program Manager Charles Harris reported that Delaware would be receiving \$702,000.00 in formula grant funding. Delaware received five competitive grant applications, which were recommended by the Commission for submission to CNCS. They are Summer Learning Collaborative, Ministry of Caring, and Reading Assist Institute. Teach for America applied as a "recompete" as they are finishing their 3-year grant cycle.

There are 14 unfilled AmeriCorps volunteer slots between TeenSHARP and United Way. Although these vacancies are expected to be filled; they may need to change from half time to reduced half time.

AmeriCorps Program Officer Tara Wiggins spoke about the AmeriCorps Week events that took place between March 10-16. AmeriCorps Week is an annual event that CNCS has identified to recognize and promote National Service and show appreciation for AmeriCorps volunteers.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Since the retreat in November 2018, there have been several focus meetings with Commissioners, staff, and Community Partners to discuss ideas and vision for promoting the State Office of Volunteerism and its mission. Commissioner Catherine Lindroth and her staff compiled the information from those meetings. Then, with Commission Chair Calistro and Executive Director Munford summarized the information into five outcomes:

Increased capacity in community organization through volunteerism

The SOV should be able to improve capacity of organizations by insuring that they are utilizing

volunteers optimally and effectively.

Improve the Volunteer experience

Improve the rate at which volunteers recur. If we improve the volunteer experience, two things must be in place:

- Matchmaking effectively the opportunities with the volunteers
- Volunteer management support which includes an effective way to contact volunteers and prioritizing better support for volunteers

Increase the number of volunteers

Improving recruitment have a simple and concrete way of finding volunteer opportunities.

Improve the output of volunteers

How do we make sure that the volunteers are performing optimally?

Prioritize the training of the volunteers as well as the Community partners

Increase the number of neighborhood driven volunteer opportunities and engagement

The Commission discussed the priorities of the outcomes. Commissioner Lindroth recommended that at every subsequent meeting we continue to report out on the consensus for the next piece. The next piece being strategy and time lines.

OLD BUSINESS

New Commissioner Onboarding needs to be scheduled. The SOV will be in touch with Commissioners to set a time and date for this.

NEW BUSINESS

Commission Chair Calistro proposed that the next full Commission meeting, scheduled for May 16, be moved to May 14th. This coincides with the Governor's Youth Awards. The meeting would take place in the afternoon at the Adult Education Center at Polytech High School before the awards begin.

MISSION MOMENT

Commissioner Hilda Adams shared about the Lower Delaware Duffle Bag Project. Volunteers from such groups as Nimble Fingers make duffle bags for children entering the foster care system.

Commissioner Adams explained that the children are often given the most readily available container to move their few belongings and unfortunately, it has been a black trash bag. Her group doesn't want children to equate themselves with garbage."

Commissioner Adams reported that Foster care workers say that it is very important for the child to have something of their own. She hopes that five years from now they clutch that bag and know that someone loved them and made it for them.

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:00.